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A vaccination creed.

CHICAGO, ILL., December, 1901.

We, the undersigned, hereby publicly profess our firm belief, based upon positive knowledge, gained through years of personal experience and study of smallpox and vaccination—

First. That true vaccination, repeated until it no longer “takes,” always prevents smallpox. Nothing else does.

Second. That true vaccination—that is, vaccination properly done on a clean arm with pure lymph and kept perfectly clean and unbroken afterwards—never did and never will make a serious sore.

Third. That such a vaccination leaves a characteristic scar, unlike that from any other cause, which is recognizable during life and is the only conclusive evidence of a successful vaccination.

Fourth. That no untoward results ever follow such vaccination. On the other hand, thousands of lives are annually sacrificed through its neglect, a neglect begotten of want of knowledge.

ARTHUR R. REYNOLDS, M. D.,
Commissioner of Health, City of Chicago.

HERMAN SPALDING, M. D.,
Chief Medical Inspector, Department of Health.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report of the epidemic of measles in Alaska during the year 1900.

[By DUNLOP MOORE, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.]

See article entitled “Mortality record of Unalaska and adjacent country for 1900,” in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS No. 40, October 4, 1901.

The most striking event in the recent medical history of Alaska was the very extensive mortality among the aboriginal population during the summer of the year 1900. Various more or less accurate references to this catastrophe have appeared in print during the past year, but, owing to the almost insuperable difficulties of acquiring correct information on this subject, the real cause of this immense death rate and the extent of territory ravaged does not appear to have been clearly defined. Thus, this mortality has been variously ascribed to la grippe, epidemic pneumonia, smallpox, measles, etc. One account refers to a mysterious plague of Asiatic origin which had ravaged the native settlements along the Yukon. Impressed with the historic interest attaching to this phenomenon, as illustrating the rôle of infectious diseases in bringing about the extinction of previously isolated aboriginal races, and perhaps as indicating the channels through which quarantinable diseases may be transmitted in the great district of Alaska, I have the honor to submit the following report:

The data at my disposal were collated from numerous sources, the most authentic available, while stationed at Dutch Harbor during the summer of 1900, and Nome during the succeeding year. Under the circumstances, absolute accuracy in all details can not be predicted; it is, however, believed that any errors which may have crept into this account will not affect the main conclusions indicated.

There seems now no reason to doubt that the unusual mortality occurring among the natives of western Alaska, northeastern Siberia, and the adjacent islands during the year 1900, was wholly due to measles or rather the ordinary pulmonary complications and sequelæ of that